

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 97 because it provides immediate protection to the important infrastructure projects funded by the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act of 2006 and the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.

The projects funded by these voter-approved bonds are vital in our efforts to rebuild California's infrastructure. As we move aggressively to reduce congestion on our roadways and protect Californians from devastating floods, my Administration has also been working tirelessly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

Current uncertainty as to what type of analysis of greenhouse gas emissions is required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has led to legal claims being asserted which would stop these important infrastructure projects. Litigation under CEQA is not the best approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain a sound and vibrant economy. To achieve these goals, we need a coordinated policy, not a piecemeal approach dictated by litigation.

This bill advances a coordinated policy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by directing the Office of Planning and Research and the Resources Agency to develop CEQA guidelines on how state and local agencies should analyze, and when necessary, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. My Administration will work to expedite the issuance of such regulations to provide predictability to California public agencies and businesses and achieve our goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger